

HE-MAN #18: "TRUST"
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FADE IN:

EXT. ETERNIA, EXT. PALACE - DAYBREAK

The sun rises over the palace. It's a beautiful morning.

EXT. PALACE - SAME

CLOSE ON A ROYAL GUARD - patrolling the palace perimeter. The mood is quiet. All is calm. Suddenly, a DOOMSEEKER lowers into FRAME & begins BEEPING. THE GUARD turns puzzled, as...

TRIKLOPS on a TERRORDACTYL, slowly, ominously, rises up from behind a palace wall (like the helicopter in Apocalypse Now)-- unseen by the guard -- Triklop's eye starting to glow.

CLOSE ON TRIKLOPS - as he fires an OPTIC BLAST at CAMERA.

THE GUARD - collapses.

ROYAL GUARD
Unhhhhh....

OTS TRIKLOPS - on his TERRORDACTYL - fires an optic blast low at the palace wall -- blasting a hole in wall. <reveal it's the top of the outer wall to a dungeon cell> ALARMS GO OFF.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT OF PALACE - SOON

CLOSE ON BOOTS - RUNNING -- SECURITY ALARMS going off.

REVEAL MAA, as he races into shot, to join... RAM MAN & MAN-E-FACES who race in from another direction.

MAN-AT-ARMS
Prison break. Secure the area!

WHIP PAN TO MEKANEK - neck raised, sees something:

MEKANEK
There!

TILT UP - TRIKLOPS swoops over the palace ramparts upon his Terrordactyl, the busted-out MERMEN, still wearing chains, on board as well.

MERMAN

Hurry up, and get these chains off
off me--

HIGH ANGLE -- suddenly, STRATOS appears and dive bombs toward Triklups & Merman, FIRING BLASTERS to cut off their escape.

TRIKLOPS' TERRORDACTYL turns sharply and loops back towards the palace.

OTS STRATOS - TRACKING FAST -- as he gives chase, weaving over and around several tall RAMPART TOWERS in pursuit...

ON TRIKLOPS & MERMEN - TRACKING -- Triklups looks back.

OTS TRIKLOPS -- as he pushes Merman aside, revealing STRATOS speeding toward them. Triklups lets loose a BARRAGE of GAMMA BLASTS, causing Stratos to veer & peel off.

FROM THE GROUND -- MAA and MAN E ROBOT let loose with blasts.

TRIKLOPS' TERRORDACTYL - evades the BLASTS, as he ZIPS off into the horizon.

ON GROUND - STRATOS lands beside MAA, quietly shakes his head, frustrated and disappointed, as we:

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PALACE - OUTER WALL - SOON (DAY)

ANGLE THRU BLASTED OUT PRISON WALL (FACING OUTSIDE) - MAA kneels INTO FRAME & surveys the wreckage. It's a mass of TWISTED METAL and CHARRED RUBBLE.

MAN-AT-ARMS

(scowling) Double reinforced
Eternian steel, and yet it still
can't withstand a gamma blast.

WIDEN as MAA turns to TEELA, ADAM, RAM MAN & STRATOS. They're all gathered around the burned out wall.

TEELA

We need a stronger metal. Something
the Evil Warriors can't break out
of.

STRATOS steps forward, addresses MAA.

STRATOS

The ancients spoke of such a metal.
Eternium. Said to be the strongest
ever known.

CLOSER ON STRATOS -

STRATOS (CONT'D)

Deposits of Eternium were once said
to exist in the Ice Mountains of
the Frozen North.

MAA considers this.

MAN AT ARMS

Uhh A remote and dangerous region
of which we know little.

STRATOS

(without hesitation) Then you'll
need me to scout the terrain.

Just then, the CAMERA PULLS BACK, to reveal the HOVERING
DOOMSEEKER, lurking in a nearby cluster of trees, its camera
pointed squarely on the Masters...

INT. SNAKE MOUNTAIN - SAME

ANGLE ON A DOOMSEEKER SCREEN -- where we see MAA taking a
SMALL SCANNER DEVICE off of his MACE and ADJUSTING IT. The
other Masters in the background. MAA hands the device to
Stratos.

MAN AT ARMS

I've re-calibrated this scanner to
detect metals of unknown origin.

PULL BACK FROM SCREEN TO OTS SKELETOR - As on screen,
Stratos shakes MAA's hand, then turns, ENGAGES his jet pack
& ROCKETS UP INTO THE SKY, soaring across the horizon...

SKELETOR (O.S.)

Interesting...

REVERSE ON SKELETOR on his bony throne, eagerly watching,
PANTHOR by his side. TRAPJAW -- *who is chomping on some
metal debris as if it were food* -- EVIL-LYN & BEASTMAN are
gathered around him.

SKELETOR (CONT'D)

If this Eternium metal exists, it
would allow us to build stronger,
more powerful weapons and--

ON TRAPJAW -- interrupts, his mind calculating.

TRAPJAW
(while chomping)
--I could use it to reinforce my
armor.(near giddy) I'd be
indestructible!

SKELETOR -- shoots Trapjaw a look.

SKELETOR
Always thinking of yourself, eh
Trapjaw? Very well. Then it shall
be your task to follow Stratos.

INCLUDE - EVIL-LYN smirking. TRAPJAW's displeased, nervous.

TRAPJAW
To the Ice Mountains? Alone? (no
response) What about you guys?

ON SKELETOR - flanked by his other WARRIORS.

SKELETOR
Oh, we'll be along...assuming you
find anything.

BEASTMAN smiles and snarls.

BEASTAMAN
Well, what are ya waitin' for?
Stratos already has a lead on ya.

TRAPJAW scowls and heads for the exit, passing Evil-Lyn,
who's admiring her nails.

EVIL-LYN
Do try not to fall in the snow and
rust.

Beastman SNICKERS. TRAPJAW looks back and glares at them,
then storms out of the room.

SKELETOR nods at a HOVERING DOOMSEEKER -- which ZIPS OUT
after TJ.

SPINNING SWORD WIPE
TO:

EXT. ICE MOUNTAINS - DAY

DRAMATIC SHOT - WIDE - The SNOWY, VAST TERRAIN of the ICE MOUNTAINS.

TRACK WITH STRATOS -- flying in over the ICE MOUNTAINS amidst a worsening HAIL STORM. He presses the COMM UNIT on his chest harness, radios the Masters:

STRATOS
(into comm unit) Weather's a bit inhospitable. I'll have to land and search on foot.

MAN-AT-ARMS (V.O./FILTERED)
Tread carefully, Stratos.

FOLLOW STRATOS -- as he swoops down towards a ridge.

STRATOS
I That I will.

ON RIDGE - STRATOS lands, surveys the surrounding area...as he SCANS with the GEIGER-LIKE SCANNER.

STRATOS POV -- PANNING...a mysterious, WOLF-LIKE CREATURE suddenly scampers PAST CAMERA and disappears O.S.

ON STRATOS -- He REACTS, puzzled...until his GEIGER-LIKE SCANNER begins TICKING.

CLOSE ON GEIGER DEVICE, its Eternian style screen flickering.

STRATOS -- reaches for his comm unit, radios the Masters:

STRATOS (CONT'D)
I'm getting a reading of some unusual metal in the vicinity.
Could be our Eternium...<ends his comm message>

OTS STRATOS -- as he slowly turns around and sees...TRAPJAW hovering on a SNOWMOBILE-LIKE VEHICLE on a ridge above him!

ZOOM ON TRAPJAW - as his arm TRANSFORMS into a cannon & fires...

STRATOS ducks & rolls and dodges the blast -- which BLASTS out a huge chunk of snowy ridge.

STRATOS comes out of his roll...just As TRAPJAW zooms in over him -- As Stratos moves to avoid being plowed down,

TRAPJAW reaches down with one of his arm gizmos and plucks the SCANNER DEVICE from STRATOS.

STRATOS reacts & fires his BLASTERS back at TRAPJAW'S VEHICLE as it VROOMS off. It gets slightly ZINGED by the blast...

WIDE - CAMERA PIVOTS TO OTS TRAPJAW'S VEHICLE - as it FLIES over the cliff and takes flight over the valley.

OTS STRATOS - as he ROCKETS into FRAME and gives chase.

ON TRAPJAW - as he glances back OS and fires PAST CAMERA.

STRATOS dodges the blast, but IT SMASHES his comm unit.

INT. MAN-AT-ARMS' WORKSHOP - SAME

MAA is on the comm unit. TEELA, ADAM & CRINGER -- are in the b.g. As MAA speaks, the RADIO CUTS TO STATIC.

MAN AT ARMS
Stratos, what is your status? <as
it goes staticy> We've lost his
signal.

TEELA
Must be the storm.

CLOSE ON MAA -- His expression changes to deep concern. He tries the comm unit again.

MAN-AT-ARMS
Perhaps. (concerned) Stratos, come
in...

EXT. ICE MOUNTAINS - SAME

HIGH ANGLE OVER MOUNTAINS -- STRATOS banks and veers, dodging deadly, softball-sized CHUNKS OF HAIL in his pursuit of TJ's flying snowmobile...

OTS STRATOS -- TJ's vehicle turns and dives into the valley below, disappearing into a fog. Stratos soars after him, but the visibility drops, until...a JAGGED ICE FORMATION APPEARS RIGHT IN FRONT OF HIM!

Stratos swerves, barely CLIPPING the icy tip, as we:

REVEAL - A FOREST OF WEIRDLY SHAPED TREE-LIKE ICE FORMATIONS -Stratos spots TJ's vehicle and zooms down after him...

LOW ANGLE - TRACKING -- as the two weave Star Wars-like thru the ICE FORMATIONS, TRADING FIRE between the icy "trees."

STRATOS -- ducks a LASER BLAST, then soars upward...and RETURNS a BLAST...

THE BLAST strikes TRAPJAW'S VEHICLE, so the geiger device goes flying out of it. ADJUST TO CLOSE ON TJ - scowling.

TRACK STRATOS - as he swoops down & nabs the device mid-air.

TRAPJAW soars past a HUGE OUTCROPPING OF ICE, that's hanging off a cliff. He uses his CLAW to hack it off...

OTS STRATOS as the ice chunk comes flying back at CAMERA.

STRATOS - tries to evade, but in doing so, his ROCKET PACK gets WHOMPED by the GIANT ICE CHUNK and EXPLODES, sending Stratos SPINNING & LOOPING out of control...

TRACK STRATOS -- as he arcs and fishtails toward the side of a mountain...and then SMASHES into a SNOWDRIFT.

CLOSER - Stratos crumples to the ground, motionless. PAN OVER TO REVEAL: WIDE ON VALLEY -- as TJ's vehicle appears in the sky, fast approaching. He soars past camera & LANDS O.S.

LOW ANGLE ON STRATOS -- face down in the snow. THE GIEGER DEVICE lies in the snow nearby TICKING LOUDLY. STEPS APPROACH from OS, until...A METAL BOOT STOMPS INTO FRAME.

THE GEIGER is ticking loudly. TRAPJAW bends to pick it up.

CLOSER - TRAPJAW'S eyes light up as he eyes the device.

A DOOMSEEKER -- pops up over Trapjaw's shoulder, BEEPING as it sends back a transmission to:

INT. SNAKE MOUNTAIN - THRONE ROOM - SAME

OTS EVIL WARRIORS - ON THE DOOMSEEKER SCREEN -- where we see a CLOSE UP of the TICKING GEIGER DEVICE.

SKELETOR

Hmm, It appears our Eternium has
been found! (to Beastman) Summon
the steeds!

EXT. ICE MOUNTAINS - MOUNTAINSIDE RIDGE - SAME

TRAPJAW stands over the dazed STRATOS. TRAPJAW attaches the GEIGER DEVICE to his armor.

OTS TJ - Transforms his claw to arm cannon, & aims it down at Stratos.

TRAPJAW
So long, birdman.

Suddenly, Stratos lurches up and yanks Trapjaw's arm blaster aside, causing it to fire an errant BLAST at their feet.

THE BLAST - creates a HOLE, which continues to CRACK & WIDEN.

ON TRAPJAW - alarmed, as the icy ridge suddenly SPLITS into a GAPING CREVICE!

TRAPJAW
Ah now Look what you went and--

EXTREME DOWN ANGLE as TJ & STRATOS go falling into the chasm.

STRATOS/TRAPJAW
(descending) Aaaaaaahhh!!!

INT. ICE CREVICE - CONTINUOUS

UP ANGLE as TJ & Stratos fall, RICOCHETING off of walls until...

LOW ANGLE - they LAND HARD on an icy floor, sprawled several yards apart.

STRATOS/TRAPJAW
<falling/landing IMPACT GRUNTS>

CLOSE ON STRATOS - lying face down. He finally stirs, slowly regaining consciousness, as the CAMERA WIDENS TO REVEAL:

TRAPJAW limping toward him, eyes full of fury, his arm cannon aimed squarely at the helpless Stratos as we...**END**
ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. ICE MOUNTAIN - CREVICE - RESUMING

LOW ANGLE -- TRAPJAW stalks toward the woozy Stratos, DRAGGING his twisted mechanical leg behind him. He RATCHETS his arm cannon as he draws closer...<NOTE: LIGHT POURS DOWN FROM THE OPEN CREVICE ABOVE>

STRATOS suddenly uses his splayed out wing, to SWOOP under TJ's one good leg...causing TJ to spill onto the ground.

TRAPJAW
Wha--? <impact GRUNT>

STRATOS uses the opportunity to leap onto the dazed TrapJaw's chest & RIP his arm blaster out of its metallic "socket".

Stratos rises, standing over TJ, aiming TJ's own blaster at him.

STRATOS
(coy) Perhaps you heard. We've had a recent vacancy in the Eternian prison...And you're going to--

Suddenly, there's a MIGHTY RUMBLING. They look up, as DEBRIS and ICE FALL downward. STRATOS and TRAPJAW leap aside.

WIDE - When all the debris settles, STRATOS still has the weapon poised at Trapjaw. <NOTE: Now there is no more light source from above.> TRAPJAW indicates the crevice up above has been blocked -- no way out. He sneers.

TRAPJAW
Okay, tough guy. Now we're *both* in prison.

TRAPJAW slowly gets up, STRATOS eyes him warily.

TRAPJAW
You got a busted wing, I got a busted leg. Our only chance of gettin' outta here is we help each other.

STRATOS -- hesitates. He glances at his left wing, sees that it's injured. He turns back to TJ, who's reaching out for his arm blaster. Stratos pulls it out of reach.

STRATOS
Very well, but your weapon stays with me.

ON TRAPJAW - He clenches his jaw, scowling -- like he's about to jump on Stratos, then thinks better of it.

TRAPJAW

Fine. (then) Stand back.

WIDER ANGLE -- Stratos steps back, keeping a firm grip on the blaster, as TJ extrudes his CLAW ATTACHMENT and it begins to SPIN. He shoves it into the WALL OF ICE and begins DRILLING a hole. <ALT: Maybe has a "rotary bit" kinda arm attachment?>

INT. MAN-AT-ARMS' WORKSHOP - SAME

TEELA is doggedly trying the RADIO TRANSMITTER.

TEELA

(into transmitter) Stratos, this is Teela...(concern) Answer me...

Nothing but STATIC. WIDEN to include RAM MAN, ADAM & CRINGER standing behind her, looking concerned.

RAM MAN

Somethin's not right.

MAA stands off to the side, studying a HOLOGRAPHIC MAP OF ETERNIA being projected from his mace. A milky white cloud swirls over the Ice Mountain region (ala a weather pattern).

MAN-AT-ARMS

The storm in the Ice Mountains has gotten worse. To send in a rescue team would only be putting more lives in danger.

TEELA

Well, we have to do something.

MAA glances at ADAM, who nods knowingly, then feigns seeing something OS...and hurries for the door.

ADAM

Hey, I think I just saw He-Man pass by.

ANGLE PAST TEELA - as she cocks a puzzled/suspicious eye at Adam who's heading out of the shop with Cringer in tow. MAA interrupts her suspicious gaze.

MAN-AT-ARMS

Keep trying to reach Stratos.

TEELA nods, then turns her attention back to the transmitter.

TEELA
Right.

EXT. PALACE - SAME

ADAM & CRINGER -- duck into an alcove, as Adam looks to make sure no one's around. Adam reaches for his sword...

ADAM/HE-MAN
By the power of Grayskull...
(signature
TRANSFORMATION)
...I have the power!!!

HE-MAN -- aims his sword at the cowering Cringer and ZAPS him, turning the feline into BATTLECAT.

HE-MAN leaps on his back...

HE-MAN
Hope you like cold weather,
Battlecat.

Battlecat REARS UP and ROARS his approval, as they charge OS.

INT. ICE MOUNTAIN - ICE CAVERNS - DAY

TIGHT ON STRATOS -- struggling as he walks.

TRAPJAW (O.S.)
Can't ya move any quicker?

WIDEN to reveal Stratos is holding up the LIMPING TRAPJAW as the two move through a long, underground ICE TUNNEL. Stratos keeps a grip on the blaster with his free hand.

TRAPJAW
You're like all the rest of your
cronies - weak! It's why you and
the Masters'll never win.

STRATOS -- abruptly stops and gets in Trapjaw's face.

STRATOS
It is you who are weak. You choose
evil, and that's a choice made only
by the weakest minds.

TRAPJAW glares at Stratos, until...they suddenly hear
ANIMALISTIC HOWLS ECHOING from down the tunnel. They REACT.

STRATOS glances over his shoulder, and just as he does, TJ
LUNGES for the blaster, grabbing a hold of the barrel.

TRAPJAW

Ha!

STRATOS - REACTS with an angry scowl.

STRATOS

Why you no good--

Stratos swings with his free hand, but TJ snares Stratos'
arm with his massive claw, holding it above Stratos' head.

TRAPJAW

Gimme the blaster or I'll snap your
arm in two--

STRATOS pivots...WHOMPING Trapjaw into the icy wall -- so
his injured leg impacts the wall. TJ howls in pain, still
holding the blaster -- as does Stratos.

TRAPJAW

<pained HOWL>

TJ suddenly SWINGS Stratos around, SLAMMING *him* into the ICE
WALL.

STRATOS

<impact GRUNT>

WIDE -- as Stratos quickly recovers, & in one motion, FLINGS
TJ back around & SLAMS *him* into the ice wall - so TJ
releases Stratos, who tumbles back OS, still holding the
blaster.

TRAPJAW

<pained HOWL>

As TRAPJAW recovers, he sees:

STRATOS - a few yards away -- slings the blaster over his
shoulder and starts to head off.

STRATOS

This partnership is over.

Suddenly -- more ANIMALISTIC HOWLS ECHO thru the tunnel.
TRAPJAW and Stratos REACT, both staring BACK into the dark
reaches. <Up ahead, we see an INTERSECTING TUNNEL.>

TRAPJAW
(nervous) What are those things?

STRATOS begins to head off down the tunnel, leaving TJ behind.

STRATOS
(off hand) No idea. But they sound hungry.

TJ panics -- calls out beseeching.

TRAPJAW
H-Hey! Ya can't leave me to get eaten! (snotty, sarcastic) You're supposed to be all "good and heroic"...

STRATOS stops, hesitates, then turns back around with a scowl -- too heroic to leave the fiend behind.

STRATOS
Allright. But one more dirty trick-
...and I *do* leave you behind.
<ALT:...and you're on your own.

A LOUD, FERAL HOWL shrieks thru the tunnel. TRAPJAW looks OS, reacts nervous, then, quickly:

TRAPJAW
Deal. Now let's go!

STRATOS hurriedly moves to TJ and props him up. The two quickly limp down the adjacent tunnel and O.S. as CAMERA PIVOTS around...to what's behind them.

A PACK OF YELLOW EYES in the dark distance, advancing toward camera, GROWLING FEROCIOUSLY as we:

CUT TO:

EXT. FROZEN NORTH - ICE MOUNTAINS - DAY

WIDE EPIC SHOT ON ICE MOUNTAINS -- The HAILSTORM is in full bore. GAIL FORCE WINDS sweep across the peaks. AS we SLOWLY PUSH IN on the tallest mountain, we see TWO TINY SPECS...

CLOSER - revealing HE-MAN atop BATTLECAT as the two bound upwards, toward the mountain's peak. (NOTE: He-Man is now in ARCTIC GEAR -- see EXISTING DESIGN.)

ON PLATEAU - HE-MAN - hops off Battlecat as they arrive on a plateau overlooking the snowy valley. He-Man scans the area, hair blowing furiously in the wind.

HE-MAN
If Stratos was here, the storm's
covered his tracks. Can you pick up
his scent, BattleCat?

BATTLECAT -- SNIFFS at the air and GROWLS. He turns and heads down a nearby path, SNIFFING as he tracks a scent.

WIDE -- He-Man races after Battlecat as the two head O.S.

INT. ICE MOUNTAIN - ICE CAVERNS - SAME

LONG SHOT DOWN A NEW TUNNEL - as Stratos & TJ furiously limp toward us, the sounds of ANIMALS growing louder behind them.

TRAPJAW
They're gainin' on us!

OTS STRATOS -- He glances over his shoulder and sees a MASS OF YELLOW EYES in the dark distance -- which suddenly reveal themselves...as a PACK OF RABID, WOLF-LIKE CREATURES! The creatures burst into the light, loping toward Stratos & TJ.

STRATOS gets an idea and FIRES at the ceiling behind them.

WIDE- Chunks of DEBRIS RAIN DOWN, sealing off the tunnel just before the creatures reach them. We hear the creatures MUFFLED FRUSTRATED HOWLS. ADJUST TO TRAPJAW - relieved & pleased.

TRAPJAW
(pleased) Hey, you're not as dumb
as you look.

STRATOS scowls -- as they head on, more determined now.

STRATOS
That makes one of us, then. It's
just a matter of time before they
dig their way through.

REVEAL - the FAR END OF THE TUNNEL. It's SEALED, too.
ADJUST TO TRAPJAW - now changing his tune.

TRAPJAW
Ah Nice goin', genius. Now we're
trapped on both ends.

STRATOS notices a shaft of light. He looks up -- and sees a HOLE in the tunnel's ceiling -- maybe 50 yards ahead of them.

STRATOS
An opening.

The two hobble towards that part of the tunnel as we PAN BACK TO THE SEALED WALL, where we see SHARP CLAWS beginning to break thru the ice, SCRATCHING & DIGGING. The HOWLS grow louder.

EXT. ICE MOUNTAINS - MOUNTAINSIDE RIDGE - SAME

ANGLE ON TRAPJAW'S SNOW VEHICLE -- blanketed in snow. WIDEN as Battlecat rushes up to it, followed by He-Man.

HE-MAN
One of Skeletor's vehicles....

Suddenly, the hovering DOOMSEEKER pops up behind the vehicle, covered in icicles, wobbling waywardly around He-Man.

HE-MAN -- thrusts his hand out and snares the Doomseeker, which instantly CRUMBLES in his hand (like crushed ice).

HE-MAN
Tri-klops was here.

DOWN ANGLE ON HE-MAN -- as a SERIES OF SHADOWS fall over him.

SKELETOR (O.S.)
Acutally, it was Trapjaw.

He-Man whips around and looks up to see:

DRAMATIC UP ANGLE -- revealing SKELETOR, EVIL-LYN, TRI-KLOPS & BEASTMAN, hovering above on GRIFFINS.

SKELETOR
(sinister chumminess)
But the whole gang's here now.

SKELETOR -- fires a HAVOC BLAST at CAMERA.

HE-MAN athletically somersaults to dodge the blast which BLASTS a big chunk out of the icy plateau....

HE-MAN comes out of his roll, next to a HUGE SNOW FORMATION and WHOMPS it with his sword...

ON WARRIORS - sending a cloud of BLINDING SNOW SPRAYING toward the Evil Warriors, whitening OUT CAMERA.

THE WARRIORS ON THEIR GRIFFINS - emerge from the white cloud...They look around puzzled.

SKELETOR and MINIONS - look over the plateau now. He-Man is nowhere to be seen.

CLOSE ON SKELETOR - he cagily scans the terrain.

SKEL POV- various large boulders and ice formations -- plenty of places for He-Man to hide.

SKELETOR (OS)
(calls out) Hide all you want, He-Man. You'll never get out of these mountains alive.

ON SKELETOR - as he blasts away a boulder.

INT. ICE CAVERNS - SAME

ON STRATOS & TRAPJAW -- as they limp over to the pool of light. ADJUST ANGLE- to show the hole and the ceiling are 25 yards above them.

STRATOS - examines the icy wall next to them. Too sheer to climb.

STRATOS
Well, The question now is: how do we reach the opening?

TRAPJAW
(cocky) Leave that to me.

TRAPJAW - as a GRAPPLING HOOK attachment appears in his arm socket. He aims it high & fires.

THE HOOK misses the opening and the hook and line fall to the ground. CLANK.

STRATOS eyes TJ, cocks an amused eyebrow.

TRAPJAW - scowls, even as the line retracts & he gets ready to try again.

Suddenly, a CHORUS OF FERAL GROWLS sweep thru the tunnel -- WHIP PAN TO:

THE ICE WALL -- where we see the rabid, WOLF-LIKE CREATURES CLAWING at an ever-widening hole, seconds from bursting thru.

UP ANGLE -- PAST TRAPJAW - as he FIRES his GRAPPLING HOOK & LINE. This time it goes thru the hole above & catches, pulling taut.

TRAPJAW - PRESSES a button & begins to RISE, not waiting for Stratos.

STRATOS frowns, then jumps up, grabs hold of TJ's leg, aiming the blaster upwards as the two rise.

DOWN ANGLE ON TUNNEL FLOOR -- The OS GROWLS become louder, fiercer, and more frenzied.

STRATOS
Faster. We're in danger!

OTS STRATOS - UP ANGLE ON TRAPJAW as they rise towards the opening. TJ looks down at Stratos and sneers.

TRAPJAW
Not we...you!

TRAPJAW SLAMS his boot into Stratos' chest, knocking him off the rope and causing Stratos to perilously fall 20 yards.

STRATOS
<surprised CRY> (falling) We had a deal.

TRAPJAW
<chuckle> Ha Did we?

THE ICE WALL - as the final shards burst out -- the MYSTERY CREATURES racing PAST CAMERA.

STRATOS hits the icy floor with a THUD, and passes out.

STRATOS
<impact GRUNT>

PAN UP TO TJ -- as he rises up and out of the ceiling's hole -- chuckling sinisterly as OS RABID GROWLS are heard.

EXTREME DOWN ANGLE -- Shadowy, ominous as the WOLF-LIKE CREATURES converge on Stratos, circling around him, as we...

Trapjaw

(Laughs)

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. ICE CAVERNS - RESUMING

EXTREME DOWN ANGLE -- SHADOWY, OMINUOUS - as the pack of WOLF-LIKE CREATURES encircle the fallen STRATOS...

CLOSER ON CREATURES -- For the first time we see they're not wolves. They're KULATAKS (*KUHL-ah-tahks*) -- a species with HAIRY BODIES, CLAWS & FANGS & and SLIGHTLY HUMANOID FACES covered in WHITE FUR. (think *American Werewolf* - mid transformation).

A KULATAK -- steps out of the pack & approaches Stratos. He SNIFFS at him, and then...he STANDS UPRIGHT.

KULATAK #1
Still alive. <nods head, signaling>

DRAMATIC ANGLE - as the Kulatak group (maybe 6 of 'em, total) stand upright and hoist Stratos' lifeless body onto their shoulders, carrying him away.

EXT. ICE MOUNTAINS - MOUNTAINSIDE RIDGE - SAME

CLOSE ON HE-MAN - as he spin/leaps to EVADE A BLAST, then lands ATOP AN ICY BOULDER, where he DEFLECTS another blast back PAST CAMERA with his SWORD...

ON SKELETOR - as the blast strikes back at his Havoc Staff - a big blast of energy is RELEASED as Skeletor & his Griffin go reeling back and carrom into Evil-Lyn, Tri-klops and Beastman's Griffins. GRIFFINS squeal/roar -- spooked.

SKELETOR/EVIL-LYN/BEASTMAN/TRI-KLOPS
<alarmed WALLAS>

HE-MAN somersaults off the boulder and lands on a waiting Battlecat...and the two bound off across the icy plateau.

OTS EVIL WARRIORS on their Griffins, getting their bearings...as they see He-Man & Battlecat leap across a snowy ridge...

CLOSER - SKELETOR - with evil sneer, addresses Tri-klops.

SKELETOR
(with menace) Let's put He-Man on
ice, shall we?

TRIKLOPS smirks, adjusts his eye setting to BLUE & fires a PULSE BLAST...

WIDE- ...at the MOUNTAINOUS PEAK looming over He-Man & Battle Cat. The peak breaks off into a huge chunk -- and builds into a ROARING AVALANCHE as it cascades down the mountain.

HE-MAN & BATTLECAT REACT as the ground begins to QUAKE, and start to race off, but a HUGE CHUNK of ice falls & knocks He-Man off BattleCat.

WIDE - DRAMATIC SHOT: HE-MAN gets swept forward in the MIGHTY AVALANCHE...(BattleCat somehow safely out of the line of fire) THEN CAMERA GOES WHITE WITH SNOW. HOLD.

WIDE - SKELETOR hovering - gleeful as the Warriors hover above. No sign of He-Man under the blanket of white.

SKELETOR
Now let's go find my Eternium.

Skeletor's Griffin, followed by the Warriors, veers down and SWOOPS STRAIGHT INTO CAMERA. The SCREEN GOES BLACK, the Griffins' shrill SQUAWKS bleeding into the next scene as...

INT. KULATAK VILLAGE (STILIA) - SAME

BLURRY POV - COMING INTO FOCUS - a stern-looking KULATAK ELDER staring down at CAMERA.

REVEAL STRATOS -- (it was his POV). He shakes the daze out of his eyes, as WE WIDEN TO SEE he's on the ground, surrounded by a group of KULATAKS.

STRATOS
(weak, dazed) Where...
Where ..am I?

ELDER KULATAK
(stern) In the village of Stilia.
We are the Kulataks. And this land
you trespass upon is our home.

<NOTE: Stilia is Latin for ice.> STRATOS raises his head weakly, looks around, as we:

PAN TO REVEAL a small, pristine ICE VILLAGE burrowed deep inside the mountain -- with multiple, carved out tiers lined with CAVES & NARROW WALKWAYS. we see many structures built out of Eternium -- ICE "BUILDINGS" with SEE-THRU FACADES & GREEN FRAMEWORK & climate controlled GREEN-HOUSE ROOMS with COLORFUL GARDENS inside. Amidst it all work VARIOUS

KULATAKS, shuttling up & down a network of LADDERS. At the far end of the village is the mouth to the cave, the exit. PAN ENDS NEARBY - at the village center -- where stands a tall, wide SILO-LIKE TOWER (big as a grain silo) filled with large green, sparkling ETERNIUM ROCKS. <NOTE: Most rocks are big as coconuts, some even bigger.>

BACK ON STRATOS - eying the immense towering silo.

STRATOS

Is that...

ON ELDER - frowning, the Silo looming behind him.

ELDER KULATAK

Eternium? Yes. It is our most vital resource, the very reason we still exist. (with disdain) And yet you have come to steal it.

STRATOS - weakly sits upright, as a few KULATAKS close in to make sure he moves no further.

STRATOS

No! (then, admitting) True, I was looking for it. But I didn't know of your people. Seeing now how vital it is to your well-being, I would never take it.

ON ELDER - eyeing him, skeptically, warily.

STRATOS is plaintive.

STRATOS

Trust me.

TRAPJAW (O.S.)

(bellows) Trust *him*? Ha!

ZIP PAN TO REVEAL - TRAPJAW -- as he bursts in from the cave's entrance, swiftly limping toward Stratos & Kulataks.

TRAPJAW

He's just stallin' till his cronies come and steal all your Eternium.

THE KULATAKS exchange puzzled looks.

KULATAKS

<puzzled, WALLAS>

THE ELDER steps forward and addresses Trapjaw.

ELDER KULATAK
(suspicious) Who are you?

TRAPAW slyly glances at the ETERNIUM, then turns to the Elder and answers with feigned nobility:

TRAPJAW
A friend. (re: Stratos) I've been trackin' him. He's been scouting you out for an attack. (oily) Trust me.

WHIP PAN TO STRATOS -- again starts to bolt upright, but the Kulataks insure he stays put.

STRATOS
Why, you lying...!

THE ELDER -- arches an eyebrow -- looking from one to the other, observing the two closely.

ELDER KULATAK
Two strangers, both asking for trust. I must think on this.
(address the others) Lock them in the supply chamber!

TWO SHOT -- Stratos & TJ exchange an icy glare before they're pulled away and led O.S.

EXT. ICE MOUNTAINS - SNOWY PLATEAU - SAME

BATTLECAT searches the hillside, SNIFFING & WHIMPERING as he follows a line of debris -- i.e. pieces of He-Man's arctic gear, He-Man's Ax (assuming he's been carrying one the whole time) or any TBD remnants of Ice Armor/Arctic He-Man design.

DOWN ANGLE -- as Battlecat stops in a ND spot, SNIFFS again, and begins furiously digging with his claws, until...

HE-MAN -- DRAMATICALLY BURSTS, EXPLODES out of the snow.

WIDEN - Battlecat ROARS with joy.

INT. KULATAK VILLAGE (STILIA) - SUPPLY CHAMBER - SAME

OTS STRATOS & TJ -- as they stand in a DOMED ROOM with ICE WALLS. The Kulataks exit, and as soon as the door closes, TRAPJAW smirks.

TRAPJAW

<chuckles> Fools.

ANGLE ON VARIOUS EXCAVATION TOOLS & SUPPLIES. PUSH IN ON A DOMED CONTAINER whose sides are made of ice. (sorta like a large terrarium) a PILE OF GLOWING GREEN NUGGETS sit inside. A GREEN LIGHT from above shines down upon the nuggets.

REVERSE ON TRAPJAW - his eyes lighting up as he heads for the container, eyeing its contents hungrily.

CLOSE ON TRAPJAW - UP ANGLE FROM CONTAINER - as its green glow reflects on his greedy face -- like something out of a Spielberg movie. Suddenly, STRATOS enter shot and clamps a halting hand on Trapjaw's shoulder.

STRATOS

No!

TRAPJAW

Back off!

TRAPJAW whirls around and slams his fist into Stratos' gut, sending the Master reeling back.

STRATOS

<wincing IMPACT GRUNT>

TJ turns to the display and SMASHES the ice with his claw. He grabs a handful of nuggets and swallows them, disgustingly and greedily. SFX: CRUNCHING.

TRAPJAW

<gross eating sounds> (gloating)
I'm gonna be indestructible!
(Laugh)

WIDE ANGLE -- as the doors suddenly SLIDE open, revealing the ELDER & TWO GUARDS. The Elder HITS a button on the wall and the GREEN LIGHT over the nugget display TURNS OFF...

CLOSE ON NUGGETS -- revealing they're actually...GRAYISH!

THE ELDER glares at TRAPJAW.

ELDER KULATAK

That is not Eternium. It is
Deterium.

TRAPJAW glances at the gray nuggets, then back to the Elder.

TRAPJAW

(worried) What's it do?

TJ suddenly grabs his gut and doubles over, MOANING in pain.

TRAPJAW
<pained MOANS>

ELDER shrugs, dryly comments.

ELDER KULATAK
Apparently...makes you sick.

THE ELDER KULATAKS approaches Stratos, indicates a peephole or some sort of mini-window in the wall.

ELDER KULATAK
We were observing. You have earned
our trust. Not by word, but by
deed.

TRAPJAW is bent over -- holding his stomach & in comic pain.

STRATOS -- nods thankfully, when suddenly-- a REVERBERATING
O.S. BLAST rattles the room. We hear PANICKED O.S.
KULATAKS, followed by SKELETOR'S BOOMING VOICE over the DIN:

ON STRATOS - reacting with urgent alarm.

STRATOS
Skeletor. He's come for the
Eternium. (to Elder)

Stratos hastily scans the room, notes the excavation tools
piled about.

INT. KULATAK VILLAGE (STILIA) - CENTRAL SQUARE - CONT.

WIDE - DOWN ANGLE - It's chaos. Kulataks scramble for
cover, crawling up ledges and fleeing into caves as the EVIL
WARRIORS stalk thru.

KULATAKS
<alarmed WALLAS>

BEASTMAN SNAPS his whip while EVIL-LYN & TRIKLOPS let loose
a BARRAGE OF FIRE BALLS & EYE BLASTS at surrounding
structures.

UP ANGLE ON AN ICE BUILDING -- as it's STRUCK by a hurling
BALL OF FIRE, causing the facade to melt away, leaving TWO
KULATAKS dangling from an exposed girder.

ON SKELETOR -- He stops when he sees, OS:

SKELETOR

The Eternium!

OTS WARRIORS - THE IMMENSE ETERNIUM SILO -- stands several yards ahead, its large green rocks glimmering in the light.

ON DOOR TO STORAGE CHAMBER - STRATOS emerges, along with the ELDER...

STRATOS
(calls) Hold it right there,
Skeletor!

THE ELDER indicates for his KULATAK GUARDS, bearing their crude excavation tools to get into defensive formation. They do -- very amateurishly -- hopelessly out of their league.

ELDER KULATAK
You have no right to our Eternium.

ON SKELETOR - coyly.

SKELETOR
Oh but I do, for you see, might
makes right.

SKELETOR lifts his Havoc Staff & aims it at the Kulatak Elder.

ZOOM ON STRATOS - alarmed.

STRATOS
Nooooo!

STRATOS heroically dives in -- intercepting the BLAST -- and gets WHOMPED backwards.

STRATOS
Agggghhhhh....

SKELETOR smirks and nods at TRIKLOPS -- who pivots his eye blaster, takes aims on the immense towering silo.

Suddenly, ICE SHARDS and SNOW from above, shatter downward.

ON TRI-KLOPS - stunned -- shrugs at Skeletor.

HE-MAN dramatically appears in a hole he's smashed thru the icy, snowy "ceiling" with his sword.

ZOOM ON SKELETOR - stunned and angry.

SKELETOR

He-Man...!

HE-MAN - somersaults down and lands dramatically amidst the Eternium rocks that have tumbled from the silo.

HE-MAN
Didn't think a little avalanche
could stop me, did you Skeletor?

SKELETOR scowls, lifts his Havoc Staff, twirls it ominously.

HE-MAN twirls his sword in response.

CLOSE ON SKELETOR - as he charges.

He-Man meets him in battle -- sword vs Havoc Staff. They
DUEL, parrying & dodging:

ON KULATAK ELDER -- he nods to his Kulataks. They hurry OS.

HE-MAN and SKELETOR locked in battle. BLAST...parry..

HE-MAN sends Skel spinning backwards -- Skel hits the wall &
somersaults back into battle, even as he looks OS...and
sees:

EVIL WARRIORS are standing by -- doing nothing.

SKELETOR
(calls) Well don't just stand there
-- get the Eternium!

CLOSE ON THE WARRIORS - as Tri-klops indicates something OS.

TRIKLOPS
Uh...

SKELETOR looks.

REVEAL TWO KULATAKS - who are at a pulleyed rope that is
rigged to a CHUTE in the immense towering silo -- the chute
is aimed right at them.

HE-MAN looks on wryly.

HE-MAN
Looks like they want to give you
that Eternium after all, Skeletor.

ON KULATAK ELDER - as he nods a signal. WHIP PAN TO THE
KULATAKS - who pull the pulleyed rope, opening the chute. A
THUNDERING AVALANCHE OF ETERNIUM ROCKS & BOULDERS pour from
the silo --ready to torrent on SKELETOR and his minions.

ZOOM ON TRIKLOPS - as he starts turning tail.

WIDE - SKELETOR and MINIONS in retreat -- the avalanche of bowling ball sized Eternium rocks THUNDERING towards them.

STRATOS gets up from his dazed, collapsed position, smiles to see the Evil Warriors sent packing.

INT. KULATAK VILLAGE (STILIA) - SOON AFTER

THE ETERNIUM SILO is again filled with Eternium rocks. A FINAL LARGE, TOWERING, INCREDIBLY HEAVY PANEL of ETERNIUM (thick as a vault) is being put into place by HE-MAN, as KULATAK WORKERS move in to finish constructing a vault around the silo. PAN TO ELDER - observing this -- flanked by BATTLECAT & STRATOS. STRATOS has a glowering TRAPJAW, who's in shackles, by his side.

The Elder nods to Stratos, then He-Man, who ENTERS SHOT.

ELDER KULATAK
We owe you much thanks.

STRATOS
And I must thank you as well. For
teaching me a valuable lesson about
trust. It must be earned. Not
simply by word, but by deed.

STRATOS removes his COMM UNIT and hands it to the Elder.

STRATOS
Should you ever be threatened
again, use this. The Masters of the
Universe will be here to help.

THE ELDER takes the comm unit and nods gratefully, as He-Man looks on and nods in approval. HIGH ANGLE - PULL BACK TO WIDE ON SCENE...

EXT. ICE MOUNTAINS - CONT.

PULL BACK - on the icy, majestic remote mountains, as we..

FADE OUT.

THE END

HM #18 - "Trust"

Moral Tag

FADE IN:

EXT. FOREST AND MOUNTAINS - SUNSET

HIGH ANGLE - TRACKING with STRATOS as he soars over the treetops. He addresses CAMERA:

STRAOTS

We all want to be trusted.
But to earn the trust of others, it's important to be trustworthy.

STARTOS swoops up into the sky, does a barrel-roll then SWOOPS DOWN close to camera.

STARTOS

And that means keeping your word,
Being honest and of course,
Speaking the truth. Until next time!

And with that STRATOS swoops off into the distance. CAMERA PIVOTS as he soars towards the mountains and a gorgeous multicolored sunset...and we...

IRIS OUT.

THE END